

## **Alliance for Housing**

Bi-monthly General Membership Meeting; Tuesday, January 13, 2015



Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly

Attendance: Kathy Williams (OCCHD), Leah Mccall (Alliance), Marc Craig, (CHN) Deb Hendren (CHN), Monica Wafford (HOPE), Dan Kelly (SOS), Liz Lucas (OLHSA), Angela Gougherty (CHN), Jill Shoemaker (HMIS), Sam Byrant (OCHD), Lisa Machesky (Lighthouse), Sian Washington (DNOM), Karla Chambers (Springhill), Ecole Brooks (OSAS), Gloria Lutey (OCHD), Shaun Taft (Family Alliance), Amy Smolski (MCCMH), Sarah Sprony (CG), Dawn Pischel (CHN), Heather Zimmerman (MDOC), Bev Weir (OCHD)

### **Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 1:37pm.

Leah Mccall called for introductions.

Leah asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were no additions. The agenda for the general membership meeting was approved. Kathy Williams motioned and Liz Lucas seconded approving the minutes from the September Alliance General Membership Meeting.

### **Announcements**

Liz Lucas announced that OLHSA was having their annual walk for warmth. She left flyers for the event at the meeting.

Leah Mccall announced that the Homeless Point in Time count will be Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. She asked that people sign-up to be team leaders. She left applications at the event; and noted that applications are available on the Alliance website at [oaklandhomeless.org](http://oaklandhomeless.org). They are seeking 45 team leaders. The trainings for team leaders are at TTI and Community Housing Network respectively. Leah noted that people should arrive at the event at 6:00pm.

It was noted that there are openings in the Supportive Services for Veterans Grant (SSVF) in Oakland County. Please contact Sian Washington at [swashington@dnom.org](mailto:swashington@dnom.org) to connect clients to Veterans resources.

### **Presentation**

Amy Smolski and Shaun Taft from Macomb County Community Health Administrators presented. Shawn noted she works on a tri-county safety net project. Amy and Shaun explained the functions of commonwealth. Commonwealth is a flyer clearinghouse that allows organizations to post flyers online. Amy noted that the website is designed for direct service workers to help refer their clients to potential community resources. She and Shaun passed out flyers noting the commonwealth system. She stated the website is also designed as a resource for those seeking services to search for services via its intuitive flyer search system. Amy noted that bonding social capital is where you are where people who

are just like you; she noted that these relationships bring together people in tight bonds with core relationships. She noted there is also bridging social capital; this is where one is with someone different than themselves; this results in acquaintance relationships that help connect people with different resources. Shaun noted that she would like more people to be involved in using this resource and that getting started is very similar. The website was reviewed in full noting its simplicity in accessing flyers in the Metro-Detroit area and the ability to search based on a myriad of preferences. Amy noted that the website is open to change to improve it. Contact Shaun at [staft@ofsfamily.org](mailto:staft@ofsfamily.org) if you're interested in being a partner organization. This way you would have online access to upload flyers about events to the system.

## **Committee and Workgroup Reports**

### **Board Report**

Marc Craig reported. He noted that the Board is focusing on capacity building activities currently. He noted they are focused on obtaining new Board members, specifically working with Common Ground to obtain a new Board member for the youth population. Marc noted that Jill Anderson is going to step in as the new treasurer. Marc noted the group is also focusing on developing new policies and procedures regarding finances.

### **Operations**

Kathy Williams reported. She noted that the operations committee is focusing on the COC applications. She noted that there may be changes to the scoring for this year's application. She noted the group is also looking for new funding opportunities for the Alliance as well.

### **Systems Coordination & Implementation**

Deb Hendren reported on the ID taskforce and the PSH registry. She noted that ID taskforce is working on developing a system that is similar to the department of corrections in order to identify individuals utilizing the HMIS system. This identification process will allow individuals to use HMIS as part of obtaining a Michigan ID. She noted two Oakland County secretary of state branches are going to work on a pilot for free Michigan IDs for those that qualify based on their exceptions rules. These rules include those with a disability, those that are low-income, etc. She noted that in Oakland County, records are no cost for agencies who are signed up as a qualifying partner with the Oakland County Clerk's office.

Deb also reported on the PSH registry. She noted the group met 1/13 to discuss vacancies. She explained the PSH registry process and noted that people are being added to the list should they be in need of PSH services; there is an HMIS referral process. Deb noted that the group pulls the list each week and assigns names to PSH providers in the County.

Leah Mccall asked that anyone who is interested in the prevention workgroup to reach out to her if they are interested in participating.

She noted the Affordable Housing workgroup meets once every month. She noted the next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at HAVEN. She noted that the group is working on developing language to work better with community-based housing developers.

Gloria reported on the hospital discharge taskforce. She noted that a new recuperative care center is opening on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Doctor's Hospital in Pontiac. She noted that this center will be designed for those who are homeless who still need some level of care after initial discharge from a hospital unit. This center will be operated as part of HOPE Hospitality and Warming Center.

Gloria also reported on the homeless health care collaboration. She noted that this group meets each month and discusses health care topics for those experiencing homelessness. She passed out a small flyer noting the meeting dates and times for 2015.

### **Finance & Audit**

Leah Mccall reported on the financial documents presented at the meeting. Leah reviewed the document and noted organizational expenses and revenues. She noted the Alliance has hired a part-time accounting support individual. Marc noted there will be a third checking account for the Alliance's MSHDA funds.

### **Advocacy & Public Awareness**

Leah Mccall presented. She noted the group is working on increasing awareness for the point in time count. She noted the group is trying to get media coverage for the event.

### **Project Monitoring and Performance Outcomes (HMIS)**

Leah Mccall reported. She noted that Sharman Davenport was ill and unable to attend. She noted the community performance and outcomes plan was an important tool to incorporate the goals of housing and homeless programs in the community. Jill noted that there are a few HMIS reports out currently including the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). She noted this report is part of the nationwide data on homelessness that goes to Congress. She noted the data was confirmed in early January 2015. She noted that the data quality was extremely good for the County. She noted that there will be HMIS data collected as part of the street count. She noted that providers should expect some data entry instructions from her regarding the street count in the next few weeks. She noted that the service point update that included the 2014 updated HUD data standards is going well. She noted that there are advanced reporting tool (ART) changes in store as well.

### **Region 10 Report**

Leah Mccall reported. She noted the region 10 meeting was cancelled recently. She noted there has been no word of a re-scheduled region 10 meeting yet.

### **HARA Single Point of Entry Report/Update**

Debra Hendren reported. She noted that the Homeless Preference Housing Choice Voucher list includes 96 names currently. She noted that there will be 5 briefings in the next few weeks. She noted there is a briefing in the beginning of February with Busch housing as well. She noted that case management assistance during the leasing up process is extremely important. She noted that those receiving vouchers should contact local ESG providers should they be in need of assistance with security deposits, back utilities and other barriers to move into housing with their voucher. Case Managers are encouraged to contact Dan Kelly at South Oakland Shelter (248-809-3773, [dkelly@oaklandshelter.org](mailto:dkelly@oaklandshelter.org)) or Deb Hendren at Community Network ([dhendren@chninc.net](mailto:dhendren@chninc.net)).

Deb noted that there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> moving up voucher pull in the near future. She noted that this program has been extremely helpful for the community.

Deb noted that CHN currently has special needs units available. She noted that in order to qualify for these benefits, individuals would need to meet the following factors:

Deb noted that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has changed their “2 heart beats rule”; she noted the new rule is that a head of household receives their own bedroom then each household member must share a room regardless of age. She noted that the Springlake Village special needs units apply to this new rule as well.

Deb noted there are about 100 active Emergency Solutions Grant cases with CHN.

## **Old Business**

### **Community Resource Day**

Dan Kelly reported. He noted there were 229 people served at the event. He noted that the event was very successful as it served a record number and had over 50 agencies participating. He asked that Alliance members consider joining the planning committee for next year’s event. Dan also noted that the event’s final report is on the Alliance website.

The event adjourned at 2:43pm.